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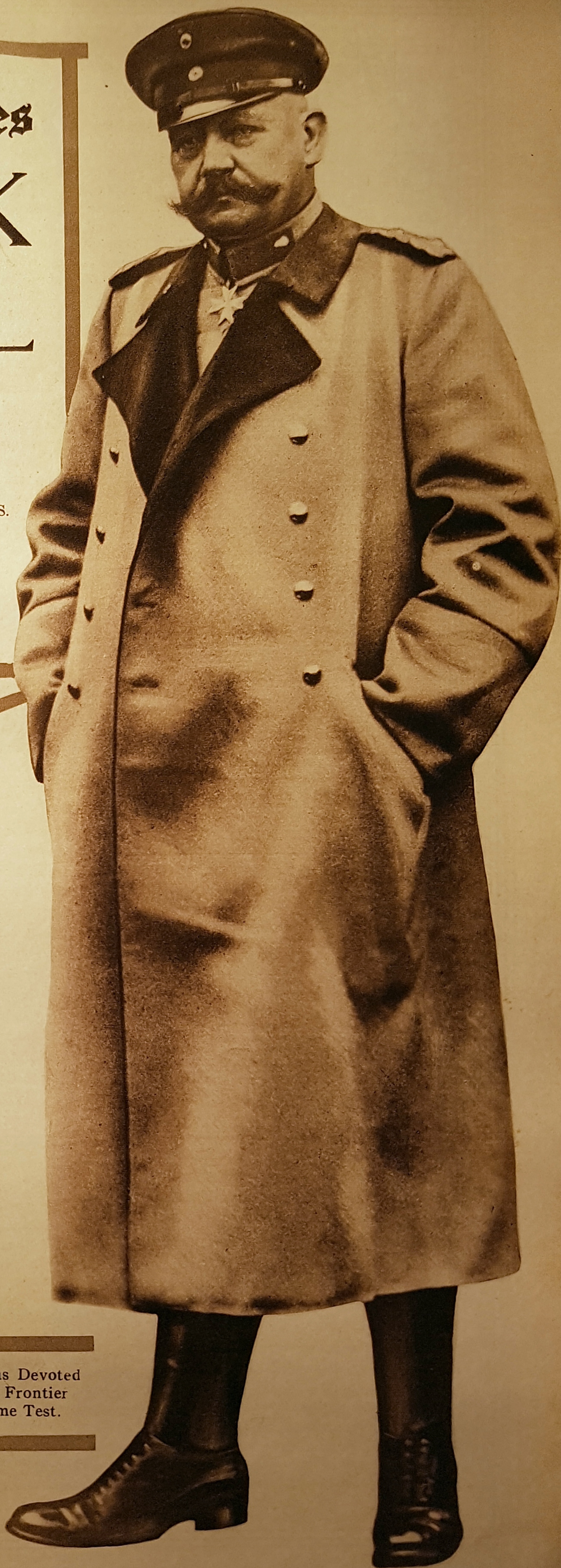
NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1914

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FIELD MARSHAL PAUL VON HINDENBURG, Who Has Devoted
a Lifetime to the Study of Military Strategy, on the Russian Frontier
Where His Armies Now Are Putting His Theories to the Supreme Test.

(Photo (C) by Paul Thompson.)



THE WAR SITUATION

Up to and Including December 13, 1914.

UNTIL last week the British fleet, of which so much had been expected, had played a part in the war that must have been galling to British pride. That pride has always been greatest in the fleet, the darling of the nation. Pride in the British Army has been second to that. Yet the nation has had the mortification of seeing the navy doomed to helplessness in the presence of a vigorous foe, while the little army has been covering itself with glory.

The helplessness of the fleet was unavoidable and not blameworthy. That did not make it much easier to bear. It was forced to sit idle before the greater part of its adversary's fleet, while the latter administered sudden and terrible blows in the dark; and another portion of the enemy's fleet ranged the oceans administering blows less terrible but not less unexpected. It seemed impossible even to find the enemy, let alone defeating him.

At last the British Navy struck, and struck with the dreadful precision which for hundreds of years has been her distinction. Perhaps the action was not glorious, but it was swift and thorough. At the end of five hours Admiral Sturdee had destroyed the German cruiser fleet under Admiral von Spee that had so long been ranging the oceans under the noses of the Allies, with British and Japanese ships looking for it in vain. It is not to be wondered at that the action produced a burst of joy in England, for it was not merely a victory; it was the wiping out of the feeling of impotence in the presence of a relentless foe which had so long hung over the nation.

Von Spee in a Trap

THE methodical certainty of the Admiralty's work is shown in the conditions under which von Spee met his fate. If the theory which prevails in England is true—and it seems confirmed by dispatches from Buenos Aires—the German Admiral found the British and Japanese slowly drawing a cordon about him from which he could not much longer escape, if he stayed in the Pacific. So he turned and ran for the Atlantic. The Admiralty apparently calculated on this intention of his, figured out that the time was at hand when he would try to carry it out, and had Sturdee waiting for him.

The German answer was delivered the day after the news came—the daring attack of the submarines on Dover. Had it succeeded the British elation over the vindication of their fleet would have been turned to mourning. It did not succeed.

The removal of the French Government from Bordeaux to Paris is a signifi-

cant event. It is easily possible to overrate it, but the fact is evident that Gen. Joffre believes the Germans will not be able to advance again. Had the French desired merely to produce a dramatic effect for the sake of heartening their people, they would have re-established their old capital before, even at the risk of having to leave it again. They resisted the temptation, however, and evidently were determined not to return to Paris until it was reasonably sure that they would stay there. That time has come, and the return to Paris shows Joffre's conviction that the Germans have reached the limit of their powers.

There is nothing in the face of the situation to warrant any such confidence. The Germans are still within seventy miles of Paris, and the Allies are unable to drive them back. It is an achievement in itself for the Germans to be able to hold their lines in France in spite of the colossal struggle in which they are engaged in Poland.

The French have been working hard to break those lines. Early in the week they endeavored to force the Germans out of their positions on the west bank of the Yser, at Dixmude, to support the British in their five-mile advance at Ypres. Later the British succeeded in making a further advance, while the French activity was renewed and increased all along the line.

Retaking Lost Positions

IN most cases the French were successful, but their successes consisted only in the recapture of positions lost by them in earlier fighting, and did not constitute the beginning of a general forward movement. That they were, as a rule, successful may indicate a falling off in the German power of resistance which would account for Joffre's present confidence.

In Alsace, too, the French have been advancing, but only to recover positions taken from them by the Germans. It is apparent that a strong and steady effort is beginning for the conquest of Alsace, and that the French army has been reinforced in that country for this purpose.

In Poland the war was characterized by German advances and by a sudden slackening in the Russian resistance. This slackening evidently gave the Germans no confidence, to judge by the wary way in which they made their moves; and it should not give them any, for the Russian strategy has been illustrated often enough in this war to give warning that when Russia appears to halt or retreat it is because she is preparing some new blow. It is when she seems to give way that she is most dangerous, as the Grand Duke Nicholas has shown more than once.

Frankness that would have been startling a while ago marks the statement given out in Berlin by the Official Press Bureau and printed this morning.

There is no disposition to underrate the foe, and the fear that the apparent Russian retreat is preliminary to the launching of some new thunderbolt stands out all over the statement. For instance, instead of boasting of the German victories in the south, the statement speaks of them without enthusiasm as "certain successes" that do not indicate victory.

"News from South Poland and Galicia makes it clear that, notwithstanding certain successes achieved by the Germans and Austrians, severe resistance is being encountered everywhere."

It also speaks of the smallness of the Austrian forces in the Carpathians and holds out no present hope of driving the Russians from Hungary; and it speaks with impatience of an Austrian boast that 10,000 Russians had been captured, calling it "meaningless" because it gave no account of the period in which the captures had been made. This vagueness in Austrian reports must have been noticed by everybody who has tried to follow them.

Servia's Great Fight

THE ferocious turning of Servia upon her enemies just as she was reported to be conquered and prostrate was a dramatic feature of the week. Only the week before her requiem had been sung, her obituary printed. Evidently the capture of Belgrade was a less crushing blow than had been expected, and these indomitable fighters have still a great capacity for resistance in them.

The answer of the Servian Cabinet to the fall of Belgrade was a proclamation of the Government's intention to take from the Austrian Empire all the countries populated by Servians, Croats or Slavonians. It was either a reckless boast or a plucky defiance, and that it was the latter was immediately shown by the way in which the Servian Army, in its turn, answered the fall of Belgrade. The first news came on Dec. 9, an announcement by the Servian Legation in London that the army had won "a complete victory, resulting in the recapture of the towns of Valjevo and Ushitza, in Servia, and the rout of two Austrian army corps." The Serbs, it was later learned, broke through the Austrian centre, compelling the right wing to retreat in disorder; and then, turning them northward, they attacked another corps, breaking that up in turn.

Finally, today comes the news that the Servians have again driven the Austrians back, and it is alleged that they are retreating along the whole front. In Berlin the official bulletin says that "operations in Servia are meeting with dogged resistance at some points, but are proceeding to the south of Belgrade." If this is a self-felicitations on the fact that the Austrians have not yet been driven back to Belgrade, it confirms the Servian claims.

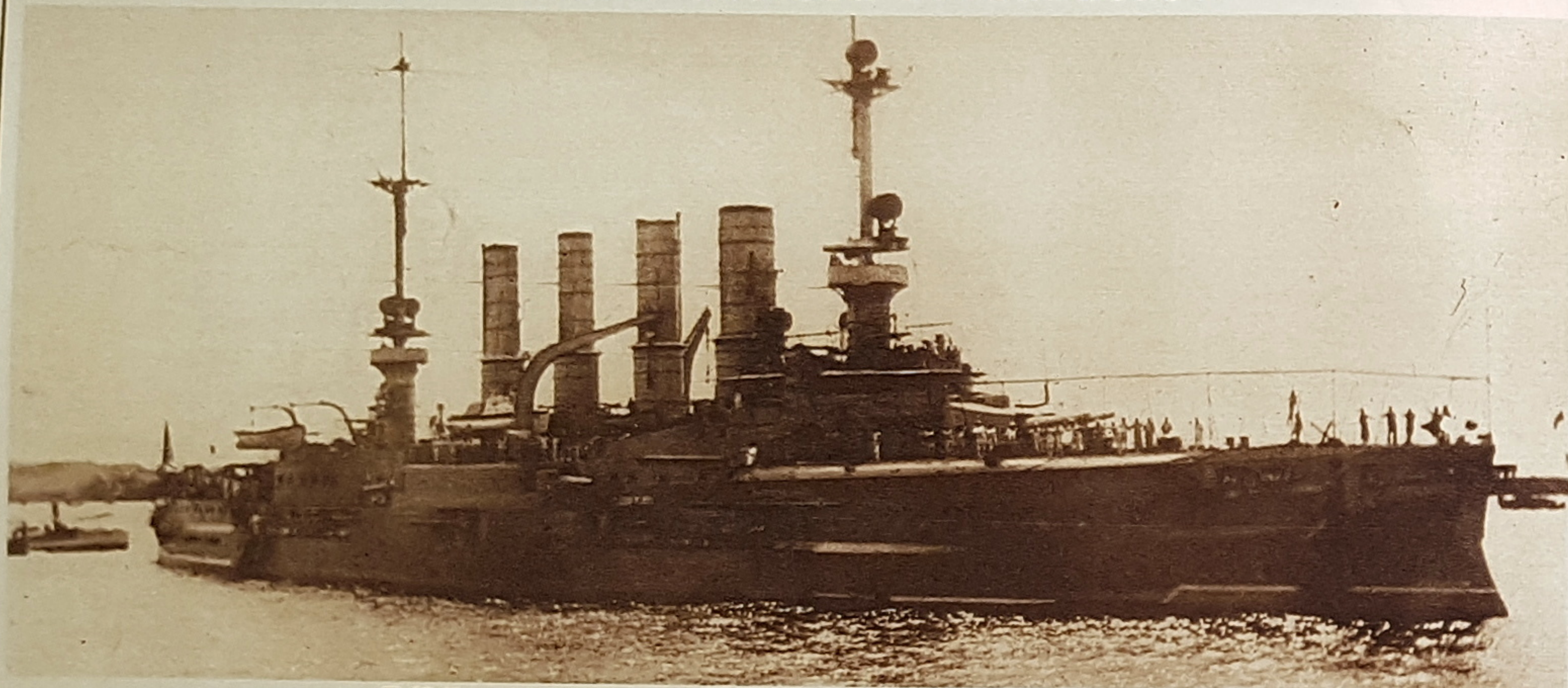


VICE ADMIRAL SIR FREDERICK STURDEE,
Chief of the British War Staff, Commanding the British Squadron That Sunk Three German
Cruisers Near the Falkland Islands.

(Photo from Underwood & Underwood.)

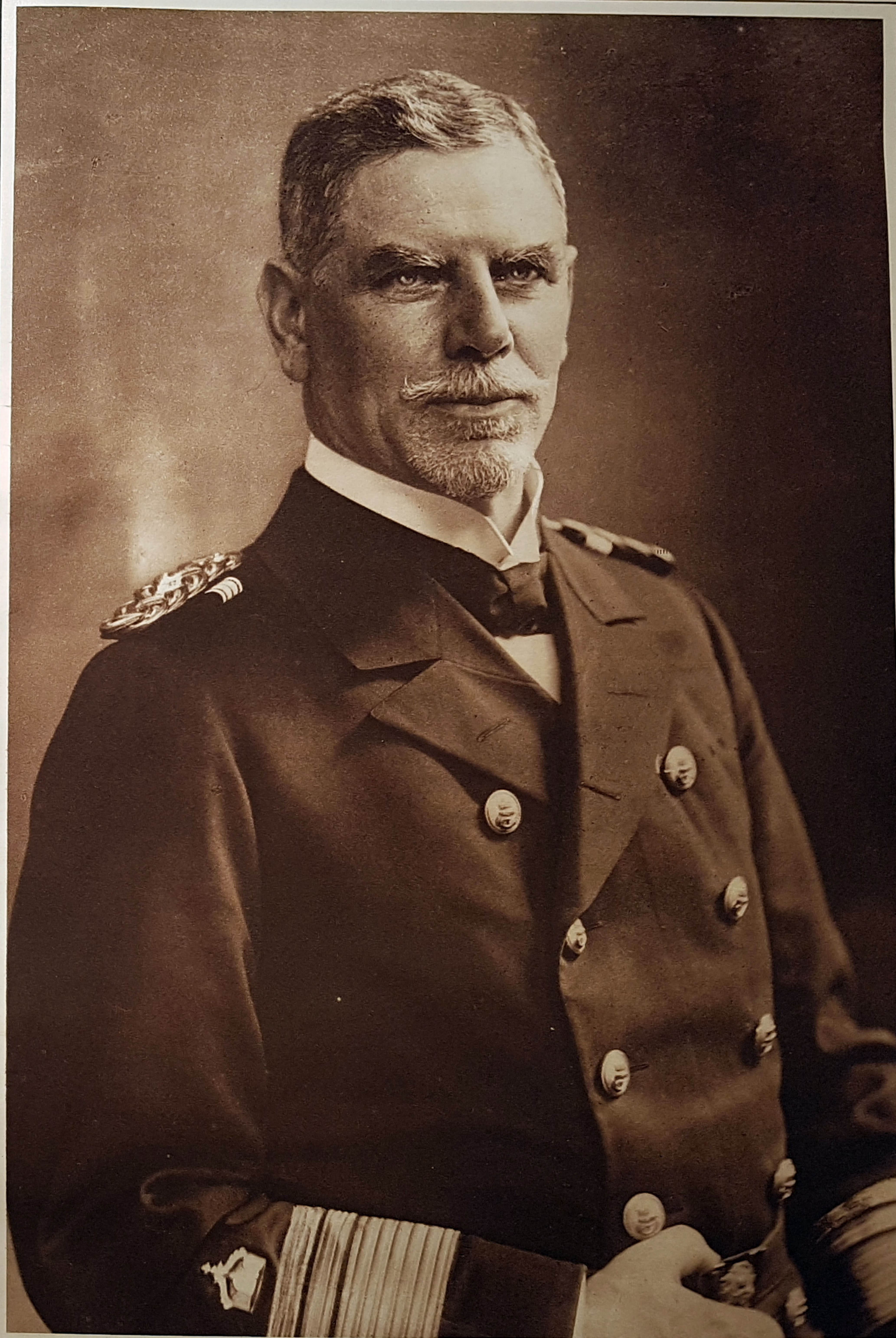


THE GERMAN CRUISER SCHARNHORST.

THE GERMAN CRUISER GNEISENAU.
(Photos from Engelbrecht.)

THE GERMAN CRUISER LEIPZIG.

(Photo (C) by American Press Assn.)
The Three Cruisers That Were Sunk by the British in the Naval Engagement Near the Falkland Islands on the 8th of December. Two of the German Colliers Also Were Captured.



ADMIRAL COUNT VON SPEE,
Who Went Down With His Flagship, the Scharnhorst, in the Battle With the British
Squadron Off the South American Coast.
(Photo (C) by Brown Bros.)



PASSPORTS ARE SUBJECT TO CLOSER SCRUTINY AT PORT SAID SINCE TURKEY ENTERED THE WAR.
(Photos (C) by American Press Assn.)



GERMAN DEAD UPON A BATTLEFIELD IN FRANCE.



THE AUSTRIAN TROOPS RESTING DURING THE OPERATIONS IN GALICIA.
(Photo from Paul Thompson.)



THE MILITARY FUNERAL OF A GERMAN OFFICER PASSING THROUGH A FRENCH VILLAGE

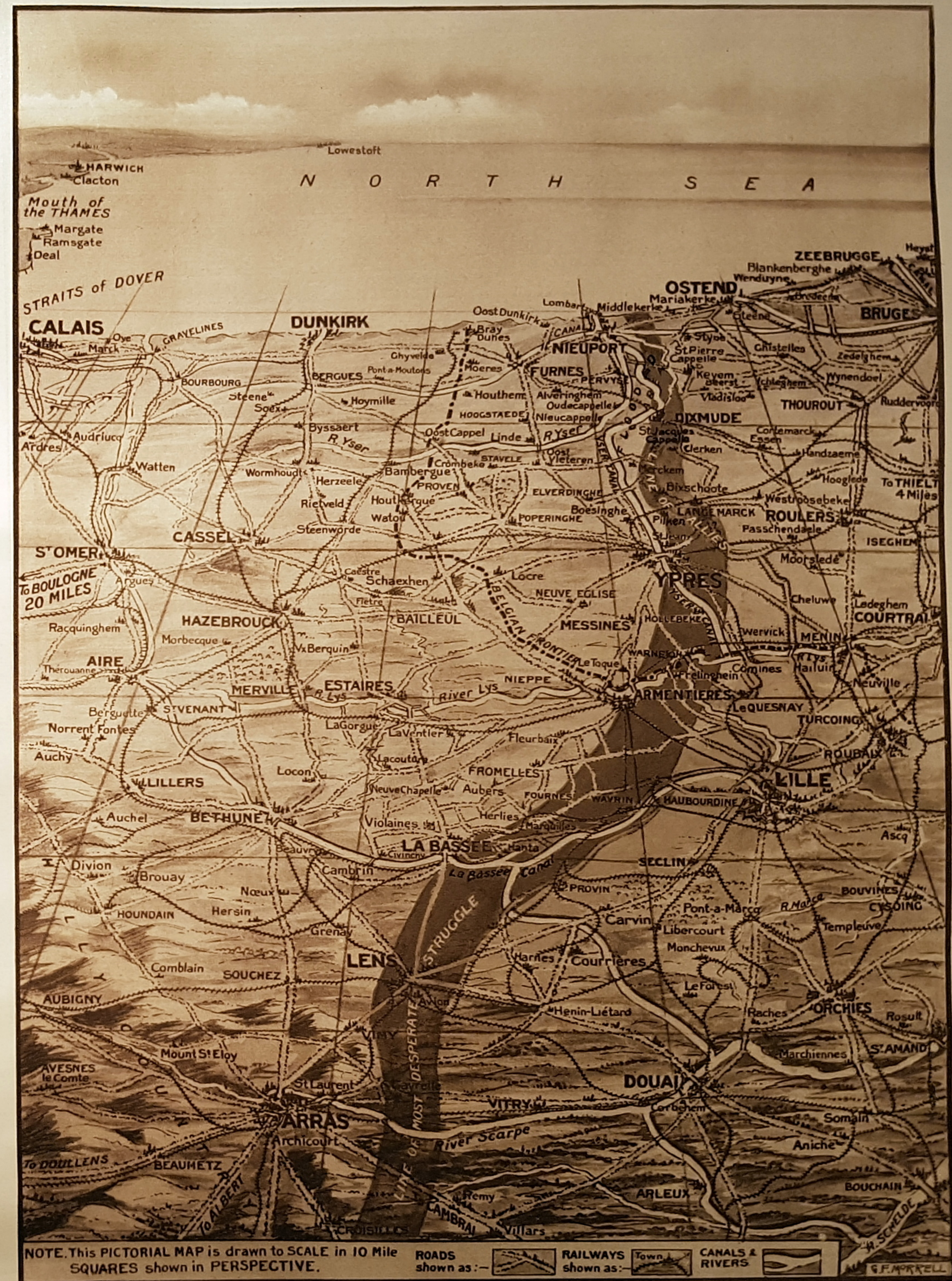


THE GERMANS EAT THEIR EVENING MEAL IN A FRENCH VILLAGE BY THE LIGHT OF THE SETTING SUN.



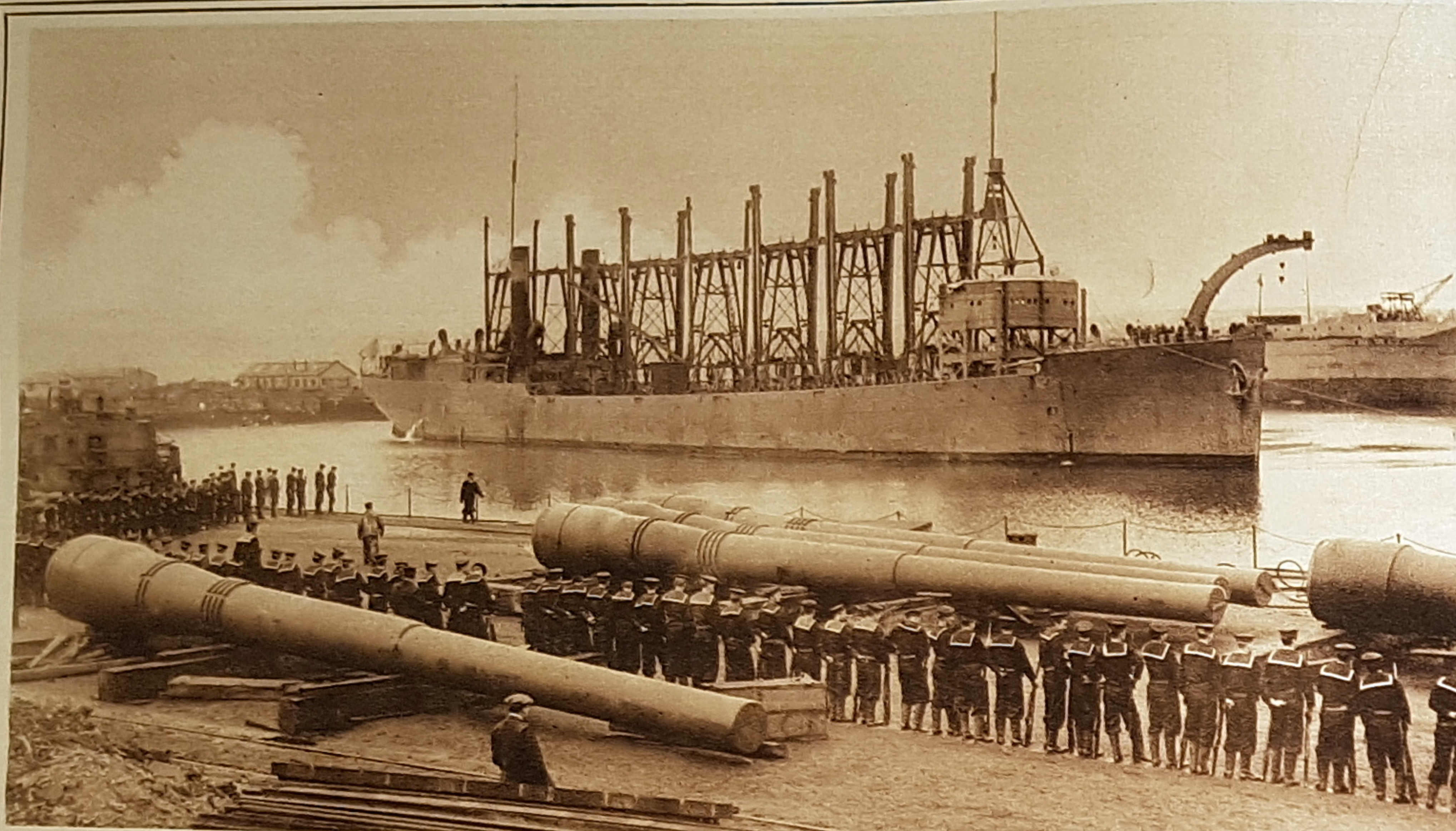
GERMAN SOLDIERS SINGING HYMNS AT A RELIGIOUS SERVICE IN THE PARK OF A BELGIAN NOBLE'S ESTATE.

(Photos from Paul Thompson.)



THE AREA FROM ARRAS TO THE SEA WHERE THE BRITISH, BELGIAN AND FRENCH LINES CHECKED THE GERMAN ADVANCE UPON DUNKIRK AND CALAIS.

(Reproduced by Courtesy of Leslie's.)



AMERICAN GIFT SHIP "JASON" ARRIVING AT KEYHAM DOCK GUARDED BY A NAVAL DETACHMENT.



A GERMAN GUN FACING THE SEA FROM THE PROMENADE AT OSTEND.
(Photo from Paul Thompson.)



A MONTENEGRIN BATTERY OPERATING AGAINST THE AUSTRIAN FORCES.
(Photos (C) by Underwood & Underwood.)



BELGIAN PEASANTS BEING SEARCHED FOR WEAPONS BY GERMAN LANDSTURM OFFICERS.
(Photo from Press Illustrating Co.)



Count Tisza the Hungarian Prime Minister Whose Request for German Reinforcements to Guard the Austrian Frontier Is Said to Have Been Refused.



A PRIEST LIGHTS THE PIPE OF A WOUNDED AUSTRIAN SOLDIER.
(Photos from Paul Thompson.)

"THE FLAG OF TRUCE," By Alphonse Marie de Neuville



A PRUSSIAN OFFICER AND HIS STAFF, BEARING A FLAG OF TRUCE, ARE BROUGHT BLINDFOLDED WITHIN THE FRENCH LINES AT BELFORT DURING THE 1871 CAMPAIGN. THE MADDENED PEASANTS WHO HAVE SUFFERED DURING THE BOMBARDMENT ARE RESTRAINED FROM ATTACKING HIM.

(Reproduced by Courtesy of Manet Joyant & Co.)



GERMAN MOTOR BOATS EQUIPPED WITH MACHINE GUNS FOR USE ON THE BELGIAN CANALS.



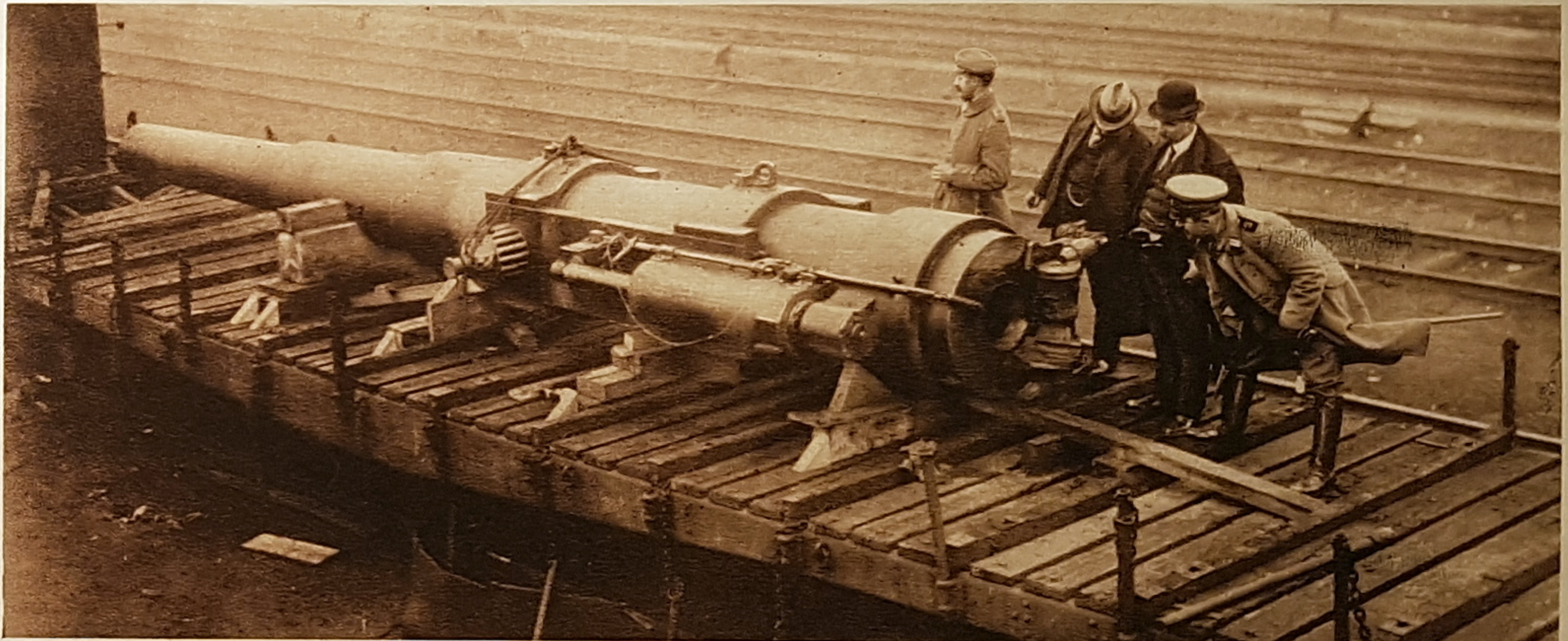
THE GERMAN ARMY RELIEF CORPS FEEDING BELGIAN CHILDREN.
(Photos from Paul Thompson.)



A FRENCH CONVOY PASSING THROUGH THE RUINED CITY OF BACCARAT.
(Photo (C) by International News Service.)



GERMANS ON THE FIRING LINE NEAR SOISSONS WAITING FOR THE SIGNAL TO ADVANCE.
(Photo from Paul Thompson.)



AN UNUSED BRITISH GUN SHIPPED TO ANTWERP AND CAPTURED BY THE GERMANS.
(Photo (C) by Underwood & Underwood.)



THE FRENCH IN AN ADVANCED TRENCH ON THE RIGHT WING IN THE EAST.
(Photo (C) by International News Service.)



RUSSIAN ARTILLERY FORDING A STREAM IN THE MARSHY REGION OF POLAND.
(Photo from Press Illustrating Co.)



A BRITISH GUN CLEVERLY MASKED TO ESCAPE OBSERVATION BY GERMAN AVIATORS.



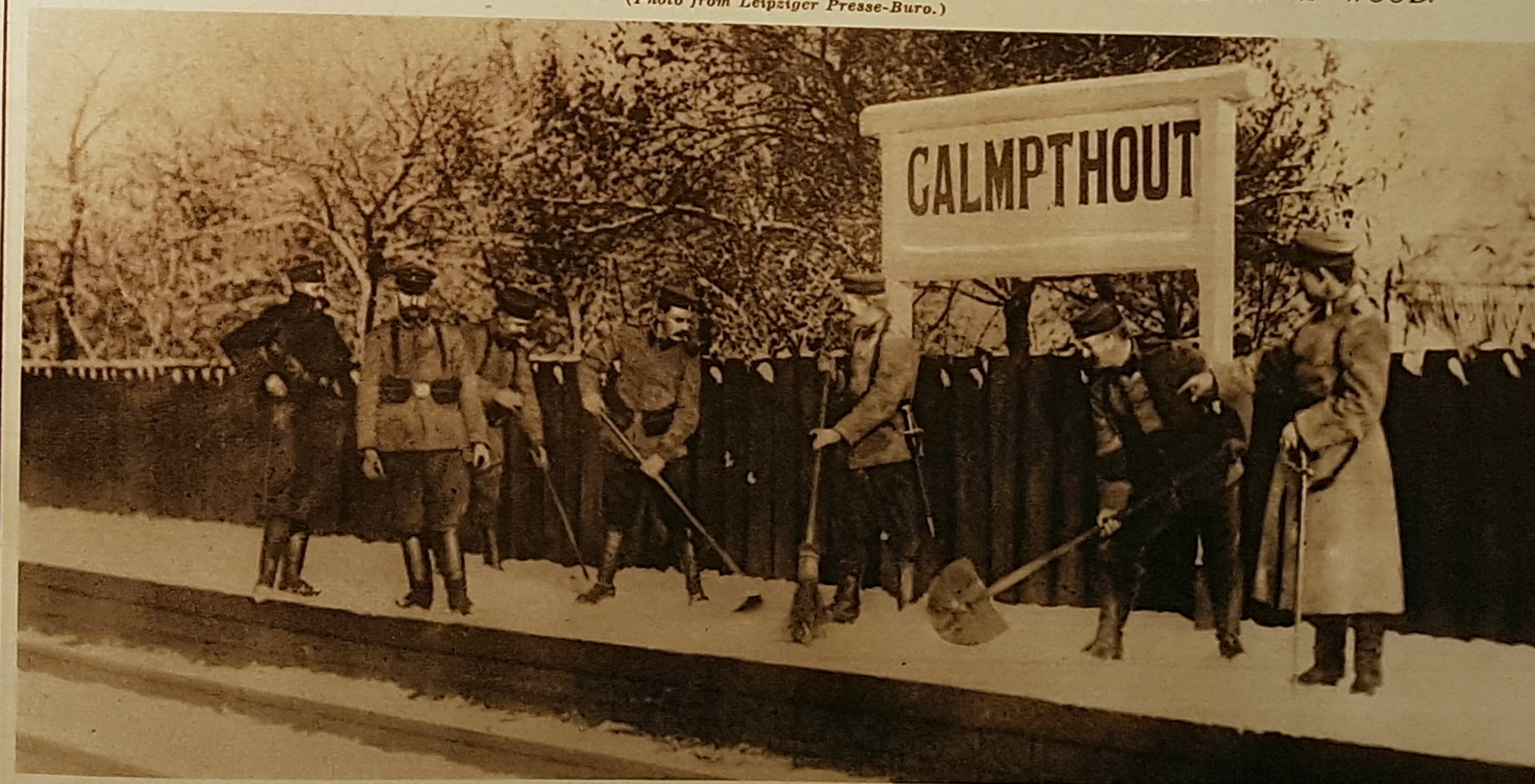
THE KAISER (AT THE EXTREME LEFT) WITNESSING THE PARADE OF A SAXON LANDSTURM REGIMENT.



TOKIO'S CELEBRATION OF THE JAPANESE VICTORY AT TSING-TAU.
(Photo (C) by International News Service.)



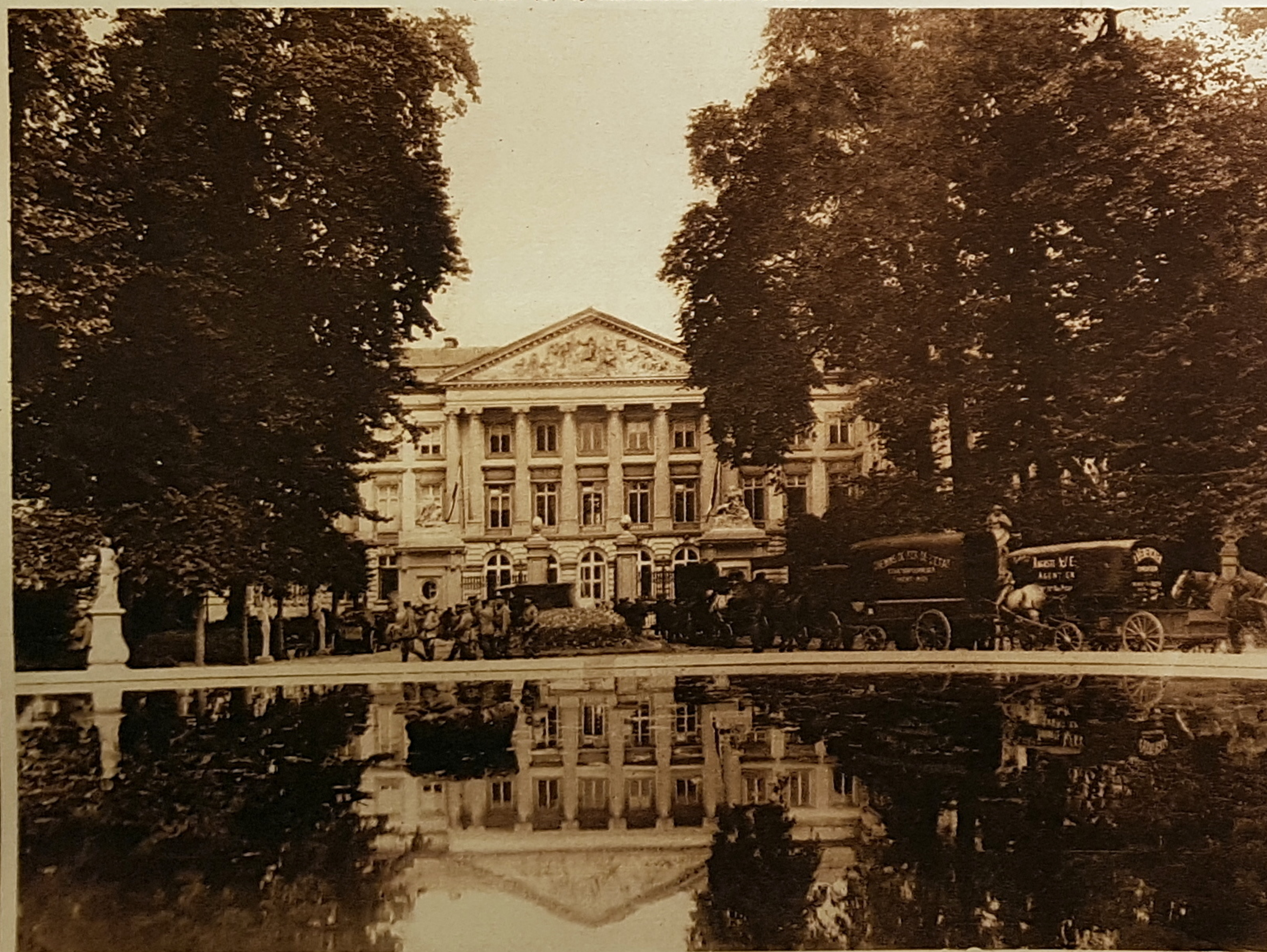
THE GERMAN HEAVY FIELD HOWITZERS HIDDEN AT THE EDGE OF A WOOD.
(Photo from Leipziger Presse-Buro.)



GERMAN GUARD CLEARING A RAILWAY PLATFORM IN BELGIUM AFTER THE FIRST SNOWFALL.



A SOLDIER ASLEEP IN A BELGIAN CHURCH WHILE CIVILIANS ARE AT PRAYER
(Photo (C) by International News Service.)



THE LEGISLATIVE PALACE AT BRUSSELS OCCUPIED BY THE GERMAN GOVERNOR
(Photo from Press Illustrating Co.)



AUSTRIAN ARTILLERYMEN REMOVING A RUSSIAN GUN ABANDONED DURING THEIR FLIGHT FROM PRZEMYSL
(Photos from Paul Thompson.)



Captured British Cannon Displayed Before the Kaiser William Monument at Hamburg.



Belgian Troopers Exercising Their Horses on the Sand Dunes Near Pervyse.
(Photo (C) by International News Service.)



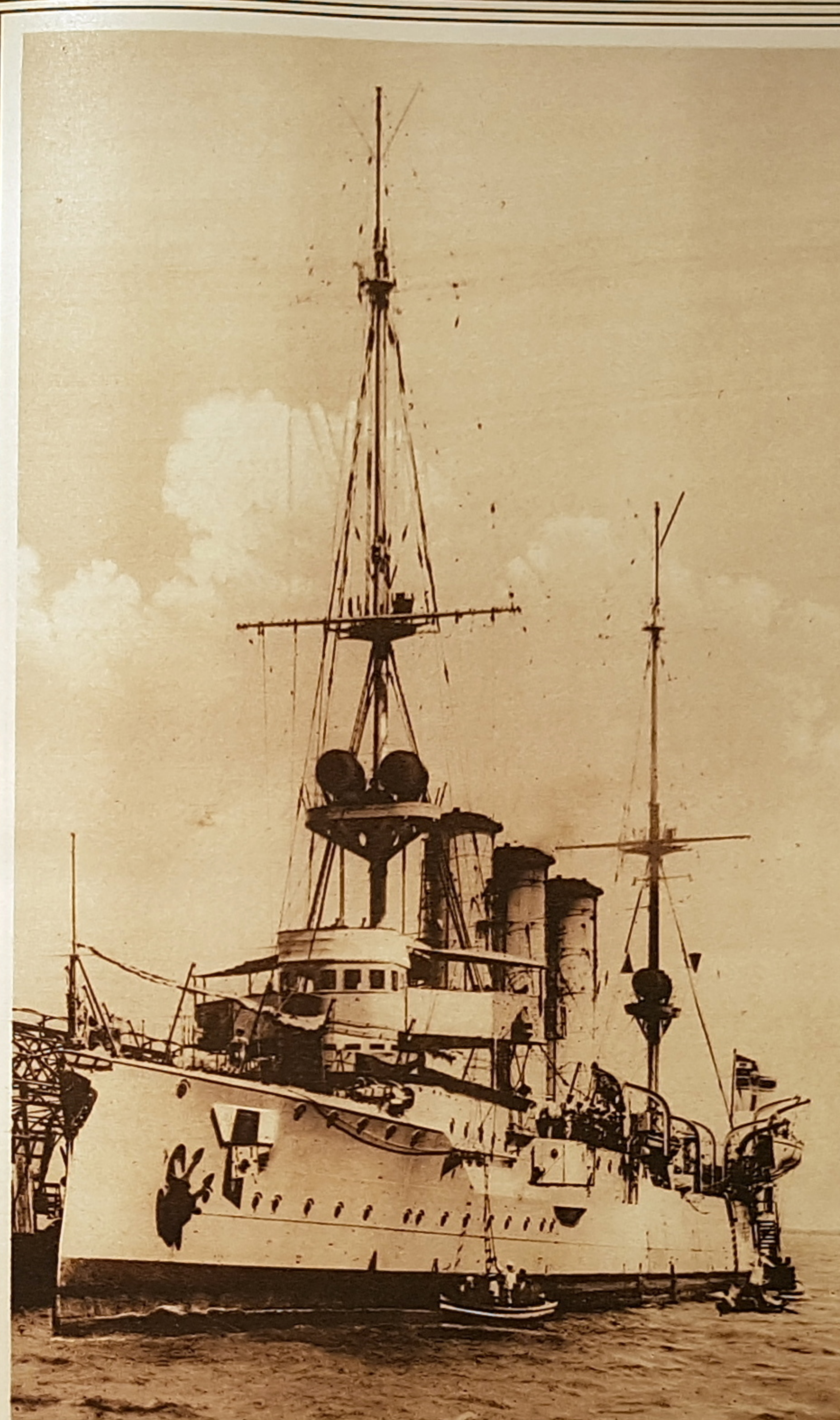
A BRIDGE AT MEZIERES TOTALLY DESTROYED BY THE FRENCH
(Photo from Press Illustrating Co.)



THE FRENCH OCCUPYING AN ADVANCED
TRENCH NEAR NOMENY.
(Photo (C) by International News Service.)



THE EFFECT OF MANY BOMBARDMENTS AT
DIXMUDE, THE STORM CENTRE OF BELGIUM.
(Photo from Englebrecht.)



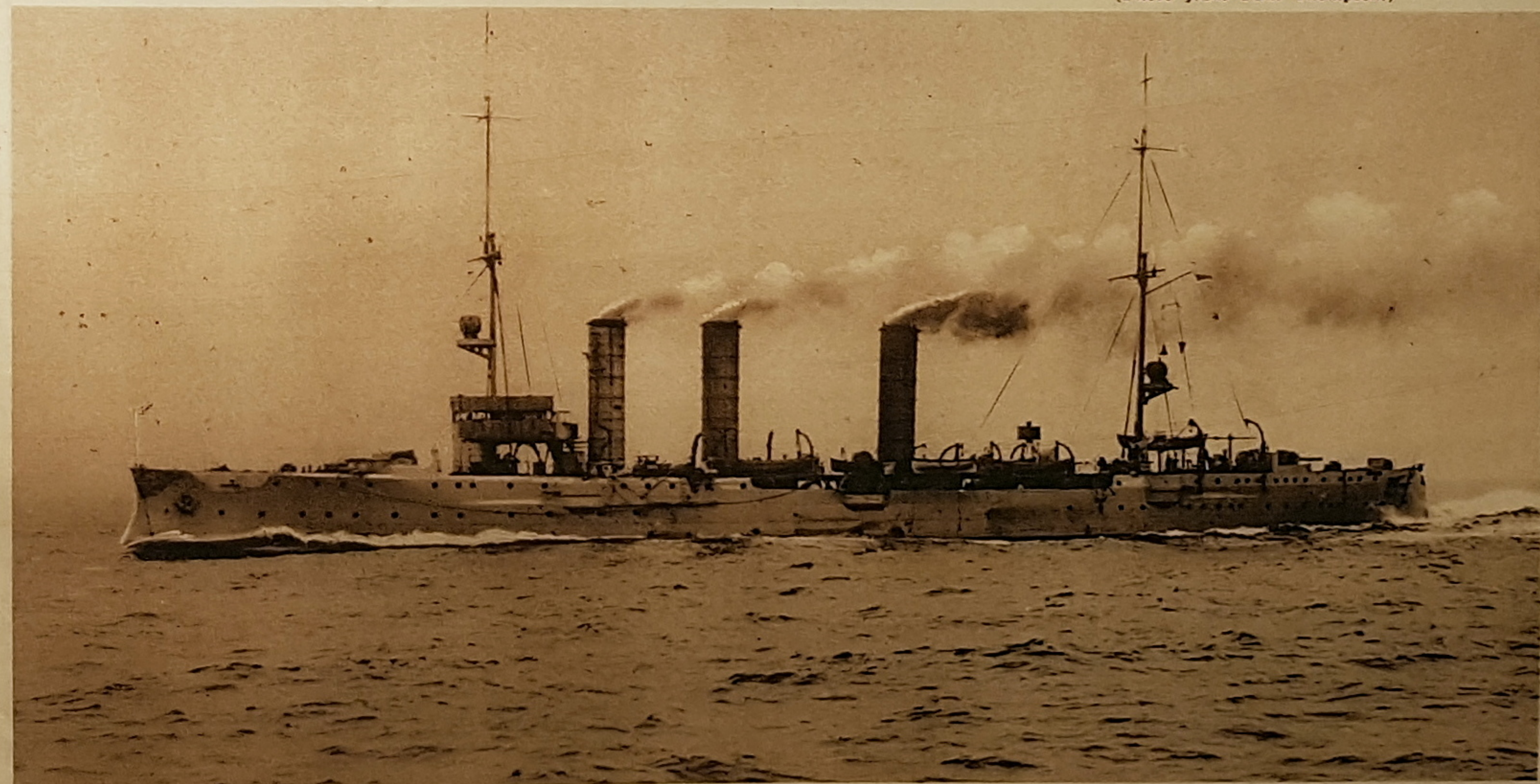
The German Cruiser Dresden Which Fled to the Straits of Magellan
After the Fight With the British Squadron in the South Atlantic.
(Photo (C) by Underwood & Underwood.)



German Artillery Officer on Top of a Haystack
Using the Periscopic Field Glass.



Telephone Operator Reporting Observations of
the Officer Above to Headquarters.
(Photo from Paul Thompson.)



THE GERMAN CRUISER NURNBERG
Sunk by the British as she Attempted to Escape During the Greatest Naval Engagement of the War.
(Photo from Englebrecht.)



MEMBERS OF THE GERMAN GENERAL STAFF AT DINNER IN A CHATEAU NEAR RHEIMS.
(Photo from Paul Thompson.)



TURCOS AT THE FRONT DOING THEIR OWN WASHING. THE NEAREST ONE WEARS A WOMAN'S SKIRT.
(Photo from Underwood & Underwood.)



THE JAM SAHIB OF NAWANAGAR, A FAMOUS BRITISH CRICKETER, WHO HAS GONE TO THE FRONT.
(Photo (C) by American Press Assn.)



A STREET IN NOMENY, A FRONTIER VILLAGE BOMBARDED THREE TIMES BY THE FRENCH AND GERMANS.
(Photo (C) by International News Service.)



PONTOONS USED BY THE GERMANS IN THE MAZURAN LAKES REGION.
(Photo from Paul Thompson.)

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GERMAN OFFICERS OF VON HINDENBURG'S STAFF IN POLAND.
(Photo from Paul Thompson.)